

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 04338 081653Z

64

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 040920

R 081356Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 712

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4338

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES

REF: STATE 220252

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES REAFFIRMS CONTINUED PORTUGUESE ADHERENCE TO NATO, ATTRIBUTED TO UNFOUNDED RUMORS, REPORTS OF OPPOSITION IN GOP TO NATO TIE, PLEADED FOR U.S. OBJECTIVITY IN JUDGING NEW GOP, AND URGED USG EFFORTS TO INCREASE AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN PORTUGAL. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY MADE NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AFTER REGISTERING LAST WEEK AMBASSADOR'S INTEREST IN PAYING COURTESY CALL. PM'S OFFICE CALLED MORNING OCTOBER 7 TO SCHEDULE CALL FOR THAT AFTERNOON. CALL LASTED FOR TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES, AT OUTSET OF WHICH I EXPRESSED MY COMPLIMENTS TO HIM ON HIS BEING CONFIRMED IN OFFICE. I THEN PROCEEDED TO SAY THAT I AND MY GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PLEASED AT THE REAFFIRMATION OF PORTUGAL'S INTENT TO ABIDE BY ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS EXPRESSED PUBLICLY BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND BY THE PRESIDENT, AND BY THE LATTER PERSONALLY TO ME. WE WERE PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED BY THE SPECIFIC REFERENCES MADE IN THESE DECLARATIONS TO NATO. PM RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT WE SHOULD HAVE NO FEAR OF ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS LINE SINCE ADHERENCE TO THE INTER-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 04338 081653Z

NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE OLD REGIME WAS

A FUNDAMENTAL POINT OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S PROGRAM.

2. I THEN NOTED THAT ONE COULD NOT HELP BEING A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE AT HEARING REPORTS AND RUMORS THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO WERE QUESTIONING THE VALUE OF PORTUGAL'S REMAINING A PART OF NATO. PM SAID THAT ONE SHOULD NOT GIVE ANY CREDIT TO SUCH RUMORS. HE SAID THAT IF RUMORS WERE TO BE BELIEVED, PORTUGAL WAS ON THE VERGE OF ECONOMIC CHAOS AND ANARCHY BUT HE NOTED THAT THE OBSERVABLE FACTS, THE CALM IN THE STREETS, THE ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE ALL SHOWED THESE RUMORS TO BE FALSE. HE SAID THAT THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WERE A VERY PEACEFUL PEOPLE. IF RECENT EVENTS SUCH AS HAPPENED IN PORTUGAL HAD HAPPENED IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS EVEN IN THE UNITED STATES, HE WONDERED WHETHER THEY COULD HAVE TRANSPIRED WITHOUT BLOODSHED.

3. I THEN MADE THE STATEMENT SUGGESTED PARA 1 (C) OF REFTEL. PM EXPRESSED FULL COMPREHENSION OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH I POINTED OUT EXISTED WITH RESPECT TO THE ENTIRE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM.

4. EARLY ON I MADE THE STATEMENT SUGGESTED PARA 1 (D) OF REFTEL. PM REPLIED COURTEOUSLY BUT SAID HIS ONLY CURRENT REQUEST WAS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD VIEW THE NEW GOP QUOTE OBJECTIVELY END QUOTE. HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAD FILED HOSTILE AND INACCURATE STORIES, BUT VOLUNTEERED THAT BOTH NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST HAD RECENTLY BECOME MORE OBJECTIVE THAN BEFORE.

I POINTED OUT THAT USG COULD NOT CONTROL PRESS COVERAGE OF PORTUGAL ANY MORE THAN GOP COULD CONTROL SPATE OF FALSE STORIES IN PORTUGUESE PRESS ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES IN PORTUGAL. HE AGREED BUT SAID PORTUGUESE PEOPLE VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT CHILE AND COULD HARDLY BE BLAMED FOR SWALLOWING ANTI-CIA STORIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SUCH DUBIOUS ACTIVITIES AS THOSE BY YACHT APOLLO (SEPTTEL).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 04338 081653Z

5. FULLY HALF OF THE CONVERSATION WAS TAKEN UP BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S EXPRESSION OF GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE CANCELLATION OF A SCHEDULED VISIT TO PORTUGAL OF THE HARLEM DANCE GROUP. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT OUR READING OF THE AFFAIR WAS THAT THE CANCELLATION CAME ABOUT BECAUSE THE GROUP HAD OVERCOMMITTED THEMSELVES AND WERE SEEKING AN EXCUSE TO CANCEL SOME ENGAGEMENTS. THEY HAD USED THE EXCUSE OF POLITICAL UNREST IN PORTUGAL, AND HAD STUCK TO IT DESPITE STRENOUS EFFORTS BY THE

EMBASSY TO OVERCOME THEIR MISAPPREHENSIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER DEPLORED THIS AND SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE A GREAT DEAL MORE CULTURAL INTERCHANGE BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE AND AMERICAN PEOPLE. HE STRESSED THE PARTICULAR AFFINITY THAT THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE HAVE FOR BALLET AND MODERN DANCE AND SAID HE HOPED THAT CULTURAL EFFORTS ALONG THESE LINES BY PEOPLE LIKE THE RUSSIANS WOULD BE BALANCED BY PRESENTATIONS BY AMERICANS. WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGED AWARENESS OF THE FACT THAT AMERICAN GROUPS ARE PRIVATE AND NOT CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS ARE THE SOVIETS, HE NONETHELESS HOPED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD DO ITS BEST TO STIMULATE GROUPS TO COME HERE, BOTH IN DANCE, MUSIC, AND OTHER CULTURAL FIELDS.

6. COMMENT: GONCALVES WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE RELAXED AND CORDIAL AND SPOKE WITH GREATER CONFIDENCE THAN DURING MY ONE PREVIOUS MEETING WITH HIM IN JULY. HIS STATEMENT IMPLYING CONTINUED PORTUGUESE ADHERENCE TO NATO WAS COINED IN SAME TERMS AS PREVIOUSLY USED WITH ME AND IN PUBLIC: HONORING PAST INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS FORMS PART OF AFM PROGRAM WHICH HE PLEDGED TO CARRY OUT IN FULL. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE MORE COMFORTING IF HE WERE TO ADD (AS DID COSTA GOMES) THAT HE PERSONALLY CONVINCED OF IMPORTANCE OF NATO TO MAINTENANCE WORLD PEACE AND OF NECESSITY FOR PORTUGAL TO REMAIN FULLY PARTICIPATING MEMBER. ONE CAN, HOWEVER, TAKE SOME REASSURANCE FROM THE FACT THAT GONCALVES BY ALL ACCOUNTS WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS OF THE AFM PROGRAM. HE IS THEREFORE NOT JUST PAYING LIP SERVICE TO A DOCUMENT FOISTED UPON HIM, AND ONE OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS HE AND THE OTHER DRAFTERS OF THAT DOCUMENT MUST HAVE HAD IN MIND WAS PORTUGAL'S NATO COMMITMENT.

SCOTT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON04338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740285-0704
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741064/aaaaccrf.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 220252
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES
TAGS: PFOR, PO, (GONCALVES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005